

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 3 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 and 4, and add Claims 5 and 6 as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming portions, each image forming portion ~~having~~ including a photosensitive member, a charging device for charging said photosensitive member, and a developing device for developing an electrostatic image on said photosensitive member with toner; ~~and~~

an ~~exposure unit~~ emitting portion disposed beneath ~~the said plurality of~~ image forming portions for emitting light beams for exposing ~~the said~~ plurality of photosensitive members, said ~~exposure unit having~~ emitting portion including a frame member that accommodates an optical member;

~~wherein said frame member includes~~ an upper frame portion opposed to ~~the said plurality of~~ image forming portions[,]; ~~the upper frame portion having a plurality of recessed portions corresponding to the image forming portions respectively;~~

a plurality of pass openings, which are provided in said upper frame portion, and through which the light beams pass for exposing said plurality of photosensitive members.

wherein each of said plurality of pass openings is disposed outside of areas, wherein each area is between a vertical tangential line, at a downstream side in a rotation direction of said photosensitive member, of said charging device and a vertical tangential

line, at an upstream side in the rotation direction of said photosensitive member, of each said developing device in an associated image forming portion; and

a recessed portion formed on said upper frame portion in a position different from said plurality of pass openings and disposed in a region between an area and a pass opening.

2. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the said plurality of image forming portions are arranged along an oblique direction, and the said upper frame portion is inclined substantially along the direction along which the said plurality of image forming portions are arranged.

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a cover for preventing toner from falling onto ~~the windows~~ said pass openings.

5. **(New)** An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said pass openings are covered with transmission members through which the light beams are transmitted.

6. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming portions, each image forming portion including a photosensitive member, a charging device for charging said photosensitive member, and a developing device for developing an electrostatic image on said photosensitive member with toner; and

an emitting portion disposed beneath said plurality of image forming portions for emitting light beams for exposing said plurality of photosensitive members, said emitting portion including an upper frame portion opposed to said plurality of image forming portions;

a plurality of pass openings, which are provided in said upper frame portion, and through which the light beams pass for exposing said plurality of photosensitive members; and

a recessed portion provided between said plurality of pass openings so as to be opposed to an area being between a vertical tangential line, at a downstream side in a rotation direction of said photosensitive member, of said charging device and a vertical tangential line, at an upstream side in the rotation direction of the photosensitive member, of each said developing device in an associated image forming portion.